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Subscription and Editorial Offices:

*Box 111 Storrs, Conn.*

### To A Young Poet

Fortunately you  
haven't a single  
well or ill gained  
shred of repu-  
tation, and so

however you try,  
your work will win  
less than the hushed  
assessing all work  
is entitled to,

and what you say  
must therefore ring  
with a tone so bell-  
clear even the dimmest  
ear can know

it's good. Later,  
young man, when worse  
luck crowns your brow,  
you can stop to loll  
and bask -- not now.

--John Moffitt